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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

4 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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MAR 22 1993

Mr. Julio Solano
16511 Silverhill Drive
Tampa, FL 33624

Dear Mr. Solano:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Congressman Michael Bilirakis has asked me to respond to your letter in which you complain about rate increases by your local cable television operator.

The Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates. The Commission is in the process of formulating rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. The Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully, and will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of regulation is needed.

Your letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE
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CO-CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON
INFANT MORTALITY
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0909

October 17, 1992

Mr. Julio Dolano
16511 Silverhill Drive
Tampa, Florida 33624



JAN 08 1993

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0909
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICES:

☐ 1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1600
CLEARWATER, FL 34615
(813) 441-3721

☐ 2739 U.S. HWY. 19, SUITE 110
HOLIDAY, FL 34691
(813) 847-1022

☐ 408 WEST RENFRO STREET
SUITE 107F
PLANT CITY, FL 33566
(813) 752-9280

Dear Mr. Dolano:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your objections to S. 12 and efforts to "re-regulate" cable television service.

I am fundamentally opposed to any congressional action to increase cable rates. As most consumers know, cable rates have increased markedly in the last few years. While there are many reasons for this increase, including the addition of new channels and programming, certainly Congress should not do anything to exacerbate the situation or further drive up rates.

After much study and reflection, however, I did not believe that the final bill recently approved by Congress over the objections of the President would result in higher rates. Instead, I believed it was necessary to end certain abuses within the cable industry.

My opinion was based on several elements. First, the legislation does not raise any cable rate or fee but actually regulates the price of basic tier service. The Federal Communications Commission will now determine "reasonable rates." Second, the bill contains concrete benefits for consumers. Service standards will be imposed on cable operators to ensure that they are responsive to their customers. While many cable operators provide excellent service, there have been instances of "renegades" who have resisted basic standards.

Finally, I do believe that much "misinformation" was generated during the cable debate. The final bill does not require cable operators to pay anyone for the use of their signal -- the bill merely gives the option to broadcasters to withhold their signal from the present 'compulsory' license and possibly negotiate for compensation. There is no provision which dictates anyone paying anything to anybody.

Still, I was distressed by the magnitude of the regulation contained in the bill. I believe that some provisions may prove onerous and could inhibit investment and development in the cable television

on balance, however, I was called upon to balance the
of my constituents and the complaints that I have received
such communities as Dunedin and Oldsmar regarding cable
vision service. While I would have preferred a less oppressive
-- in the end I believe I voted with my constituents and with
able consumers nationwide.

Please be assured, however, that I carefully considered your
comments and the many others that I received from individuals and
families who were opposed to the bill. You can be certain that I do
not take such input lightly. In fact, I rely heavily on the views I
receive from my constituents in shaping my service as your
representative. You can be certain that I will exercise careful
oversight over the new law to see that it performs as intended.

Again, thank you for expressing your views.

Sincerely yours,

Mike

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

MB:rjm

